

June 26, 1985

TO: Memo to file
FROM: Thomas J. Suchoski *TJS*
RE: Tar Sand Operation, DOE/047/019, Uintah County, Utah

On June 20, 1985 Tom Suchoski and Wayne Hedberg visited the Uintah County Tar Sands Operation. The site is accessed off of the Seep Ridge road by driving north along the pipeline, approximately 200 feet and making a turn to the east to a dirt road. The access road was blocked with brush. The access road to the reclaimed pit area is approximately one half mile in length.

In reaching the reclaimed pit area and checking the reestablishment of a drainage channel through the area, the blending of the slopes to natural contour is good. The surface is rather rocky and rubbly.

Based on an October letter from Mr. Byron Merrill, Chairman of the Uintah County Commission, it was indicated that the site had been regraded and reseeded last fall. The reseeding effort has been marginally successful. There are some grasses and forbs that are in seedling stage, approximately 3 to 4 inches high. The amount of cover, is extremely limited as it appears some areas have received very little seed and/or the seeding which took place was not successful. It is recommended that this coming fall that they reseed these areas for which revegetation was not very successful, as well as the road to the site which needs to be ripped, scarified, and disced prior to reseeding.

The ephemeral channel which runs through the bottom of the property has been well reestablished. Here, due to the increased soil moisture, the revegetation effort looks good with some fairly dense stands of grass along the bottom. The north side of the drainage appears to have a much better stand of vegetation than that which occurs on the south side of the channel.

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The lower end of the ephemeral channel appears to be a drop of approximately 12 feet in vertical height a slope of 1:1.5. There appears to have been some minor erosion at the bottom of the Drop. It is recommended that this fall, when reseeding for the south slope takes place, that an effort be made to riprap the channel location at the drop.

Overall the site reclamation is good. It is hoped that the Uintah County Commission will continue its efforts to fully reestablish vegetative cover on the site and allow it to be revegetated and fully reclaimed.

jvb
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